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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
First session
2-13 August 1993

DRAFT REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES ON ITS ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Preparatory Committee held its organizational session at United Nations Headquarters on 15 and 16 April 1993. The Committee held three meetings.

2. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, who made an introductory statement.

B. Attendance

3. The following States were represented: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Guyana, Haiti, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

4. The United Nations Environment Programme was represented.

5. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, International Maritime Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

6. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Caribbean Community, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Economic Community, Latin American Economic System, Organization of African Unity and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

7. The Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania was represented by an observer.

C. Election of officers

8. At the 1st meeting, on 15 April, the Preparatory Committee elected Mrs. Penelope Wensley (Australia) Chairman of the Committee by acclamation.

9. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee elected by acclamation the following four Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Takao Shibata (Japan), Mr. Marian Dinu (Romania), Mr. José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde) and Mr. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda).

10. At the 2nd meeting, on 16 April, Mr. Takao Shibata (Japan) was designated by the Bureau to take on the additional responsibilities of Rapporteur of the Committee.

D. Adoption of the agenda

11. At the 1st meeting, on 15 April, the Preparatory Committee adopted the provisional agenda contained in document A/CONF.167/PC/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

3. Preparations for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

4. Provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee.

II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

12. The Preparatory Committee considered the question of preparations for the Conference (agenda item 3) jointly with agenda item 4 (see sect. III) at its 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 15 and 16 April. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/CONF.167/PC/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (A/CONF.167/PC/3).

13. At the 1st meeting, on 15 April, the Director, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, made an introductory statement.

14. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee heard statements by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Vanuatu (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), New Zealand (on behalf also of Canada and Australia), Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Singapore, China, the United States of America and Japan.

A. Guidelines for the work of the Preparatory Committee

15. At the 2nd meeting, on 16 April 1993, the Chairman introduced, on behalf of the Bureau, a draft decision (A/CONF.167/PC/L.3) entitled "Guidelines for the work of the Preparatory Committee". The draft decision read as follows:

"Guidelines for the work of the Preparatory Committee

"The Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

"(a) Decides to approach its work taking into account the following guidelines:

"(i) The outcome of the Conference should follow the framework developed in Agenda 21. It should seek not to duplicate Agenda 21 but rather to address the implementation of Agenda 21 in relation to small island developing States. The focus should be on the problems and needs specific to small island developing States;

"(ii) Matters related to specific problems for small island developing States should be addressed at the micro level in relation to each priority area, as outlined in item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda for the Preparatory Committee, rather than at the macro level, as under item 3 (a);

"(iii) Consideration of the responsibilities of small island developing States should address:

a. Actions and policies required for environment and development planning, including economic and environmental policy, resource management, legislative framework and endogenous institutions;

b. Elements for inclusion in medium- and long-term sustainable development plans and response strategies;

c. Measures for enhancing endogenous capacity-building;

"(iv) Consideration of responsibilities of regional organizations should involve addressing:

a. Development of regional approaches to sustainable development/environmental problems;

b. Technical cooperation for endogenous capacity-building;

"(v) Consideration of responsibilities of the international community should involve addressing:

a. Access to financial resources for sustainable development;

b. Access to environmentally sound and energy-efficient technology, including delivery mechanisms;

c. Access to resources for endogenous capacity-building;

"(b) Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the documentation for the substantive session of the Committee, to take into account the above guidelines, as well as, inter alia, the following information:

"(i) National reports submitted during the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"(ii) Any supplementary national reports that may be provided by Governments;

"(iii) Relevant reports arising out of regional technical meetings (including input from regional economic, financial and environmental organizations, for example, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Development Bank and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

"(iv) Relevant information provided by organizations of the United Nations system, for example, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization;

"(v) Reports submitted by other intergovernmental organizations, for example, the Commonwealth secretariat and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

"(vi) Reports submitted by international financial institutions;

"(vii) Relevant contributions from non-governmental organizations."

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Vanuatu (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Japan, Barbados, China, the United States of America, Australia, Brazil, Austria, the Federated States of Micronesia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Jamaica, Guinea-Bissau, Marshall Islands, Grenada, Benin and Singapore.

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 16 April, statements were made by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, Samoa, Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Singapore, Vanuatu (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), France, Australia, Cuba, Brazil, China, Uganda, Bolivia, Norway, Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Canada and Antigua and Barbuda.

18. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba orally amended the draft decision by replacing the word "responsibilities" with the words "the role" in subparagraphs (a) (iii), (iv) and (v).

19. The representative of Vanuatu (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States) orally amended the draft decision by deleting the phrases "should address" at the end of subparagraph (a)(iii) and "should involve addressing" at the end of subparagraphs (a) (iv) and (v).

20. Based on proposals made during the discussion, the Chairman revised the draft decision as follows:

(a) Subparagraph (a) (v) a was replaced with the following text:

"a. Access to financial resources and mechanisms in accordance with the provisions of chapter 33 of Agenda 21";

(b) Subparagraph (a) (v) b was replaced by the following text, which was based on paragraph 5 (e) of General Assembly resolution 47/189:

"b. Measures for enhancing the endogenous capacity of small island developing States, in particular the development of human resources and the promotion of access to environmentally sound and energy-efficient technology for sustainable development within such States".

21. At the same meeting, as no agreement could be reached on the formulation of subparagraph (a) (i), the Preparatory Committee decided to delete the subparagraph on the understanding that it would return to the consideration of the subparagraph at its next session.

22. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft decision as orally amended and revised (see annex I, decision I).

B. Draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference

23. At the 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Preparatory Committee considered the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference contained in document A/CONF.167/PC/3.

24. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Vanuatu (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Trinidad and Tobago, Australia, France and New Zealand.

25. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America proposed the addition of a new rule to the provisional rules of procedure, to be inserted between rules 64 and 65, which read as follows:

"Participation of associate members of regional commissions

"Associate members of regional commissions invited to the Conference may participate as observers, outside the negotiating process and without the right to vote, in the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities."

26. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided to recommend to the Conference the adoption of the provisional rules of procedure as orally amended (see annex I, decision II).

C. Participation of associate members of regional commissions in the Conference and its preparatory process

27. At the 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the representative of the United States of America proposed a draft decision concerning the participation of associate members of regional commissions.

28. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, Australia, France and New Zealand.

29. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft decision (see annex I, decision III).

D. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference and its preparatory process

30. At the 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the representative of Canada proposed a draft decision entitled "Participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference and its preparatory process", which read as follows:

"The Preparatory Committee decides to invite non-governmental organizations to contribute actively in the Conference and its preparatory process in accordance with the procedures followed for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development."

31. At the same meeting, the representative of China proposed to amend the draft decision by inserting the words "including major groups" after the words "non-governmental organizations".

32. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally amended (see annex I, decision IV).

III. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

33. The Preparatory Committee considered the provisional agenda for its first session (agenda item 4) jointly with agenda item 3 (see sect. II) at its 1st, 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 15 and 16 April. It had before it the note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.167/PC/L.1).

34. At the 1st meeting, on 15 April, the Director, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, made an introductory statement.

35. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee heard statements by the representatives listed in paragraph 14 above.

36. At the same meeting, the representative of Colombia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft proposal entitled "Draft provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee" (A/CONF.167/PC/L.2).

37. Statements were made by the representatives of Vanuatu (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Barbados, Australia, Cuba and France.

38. At the 2nd meeting, on 16 April, the Director, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, introduced the note by the Secretariat containing the revised draft provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.167/PC/L.1/Rev.1), which read as follows:

"1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

"2. Preparations for the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on the basis of General Assembly resolution 47/189 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions:

"(a) Activities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and other bodies of relevance to the preparatory process related to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States in the light of relevant recommendations of Agenda 21;

"(b) Preparations by the host Government;

"(c) Reports from regional technical meetings;

"(d) Participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process;

"(e) Operations of the voluntary fund;

"[(f) Reports of the working groups.]

"3. Consideration of plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which involve meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity, and improving the quality of life for island people, as well as measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively, creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources:

"(a) Overview of the special problems of small island developing States:

"(i) Current trends in the socio-economic development of small island developing States;

"(ii) Nature and magnitude of specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States, including specific indicators of vulnerability;

"(iii) Prospects for, constraints on and further options for sustainable development;

"(b) Priority areas for the sustainable development of small island developing States:

"(i) Management of environmental problems of small island developing States;

"(ii) Management of the resources of small island developing States;

"(iii) Capacity-building in small island developing States;

"(c) Implementation, monitoring and review of the recommendations emerging from agenda item 3 (a) and (b) above:

"(i) National implementation, including recommendations for national capacity-building;

"(ii) Regional implementation, including review of relevant regional institutional arrangements and, where appropriate, recommendations for improvement;

"(iii) International implementation.

"4. Provisional agenda for the Conference;

"5. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

"ANNOTATIONS

"3 (b) (i) Priority areas for the management of environmental problems of small island developing States include the following:

1. Climate change and sealevel rise, including coral bleaching and tropical storms;

2. Natural and environmental disaster preparedness, including early warning systems, disaster relief mechanisms and storm-resistant construction;

3. Management of waste.

"3 (b) (ii) Priority areas for the management of the resources of small island developing States include the following:

1. Coastal and marine resources;

2. Freshwater resources;

3. Land resources, including sustainable agriculture and forestry;

4. Energy resources;

5. Tourism resources;

6. Biodiversity resources.

"3 (b) (iii) Priority areas related to capacity-building in small island developing States include the following:

1. National institutions and administrative capacity;

2. Regional institutions and technical cooperation;

3. Regional transport and communication systems;

4. Science and technology;

5. Human resource development, including education, training, health and population.

"3 (c) (iii) International implementation, monitoring and review of the recommendations emerging from agenda item 3 (a) and (b) above include the following:

1. Review of the responsiveness of international institutional arrangements to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States and, where appropriate, recommendations for improvement;

2. Recommendations for monitoring and follow-up within the United Nations system."

39. At the 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Chairman further revised the draft provisional agenda contained in document A/CONF.167/PC/L.1/Rev.1.

40. A statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

41. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee decided to approve the provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.167/PC/L.1/Rev.1) as orally revised (see annex I, decision V).

42. In the light of that decision, the proposal contained in document A/CONF.167/PC/L.2 was withdrawn.

IV. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

43. At the 3rd meeting, on 16 April, the Chairman made concluding remarks.

44. Concluding statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the United States of America, Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community) and Canada. The observer for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme also made a statement.

ANNEX I

Decisions adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session

DECISION I

Guidelines for the work of the Preparatory Committee

At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April 1993, the Preparatory Committee decided:

(a) To approach its work taking into account the following guidelines:

(i) Matters related to specific problems for small island developing States should be addressed at the micro level in relation to each priority area, as outlined in item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda for the Preparatory Committee, rather than at the macro level, as under item 3 (a);

(ii) Consideration of the role of small island developing States:

a. Actions and policies required for environment and development planning, including economic and environmental policy, resource management, legislative framework and endogenous institutions;

b. Elements for inclusion in medium- and long-term sustainable development plans and response strategies;

c. Measures for enhancing endogenous capacity-building;

(iii) Consideration of the role of regional organizations:

a. Development of regional approaches to sustainable development/environmental problems;

b. Technical cooperation for endogenous capacity-building;

(iv) Consideration of the role of the international community:

a. Access to financial resources and mechanisms in accordance with the provisions of chapter 33 of Agenda 21;

b. Measures for enhancing the endogenous capacity of small island developing States, in particular the development of human resources and the promotion of access to environmentally sound and energy-efficient technology for sustainable development within such States;

(b) To request the Secretary-General, in preparing the documentation for the substantive session of the Committee, to take into account the above guidelines, as well as, inter alia, the following information:

(i) National reports submitted during the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(ii) Any supplementary national reports that may be provided by Governments;

(iii) Relevant reports arising out of regional technical meetings (including input from regional economic, financial and environmental organizations, for example, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Asian Development Bank and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

(iv) Relevant information provided by organizations of the United Nations system, for example, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization;

(v) Reports submitted by other intergovernmental organizations, for example, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;

(vi) Reports submitted by international financial institutions;

(vii) Relevant contributions from non-governmental organizations.

DECISION II

Provisional rules of procedure for the Conference

At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April 1993, the Preparatory Committee decided to recommend to the Conference the adoption of the provisional rules of procedure set out in the annex hereto.

Annex

PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Composition of delegations

Rule 1

The delegation of each State participating in the Conference shall consist of a head of delegation and such other representatives, alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Alternates and advisers

Rule 2

The head of delegation may designate an alternate representative or an adviser to act as a representative.

Submission of credentials

Rule 3

The credentials of representatives and the names of alternate representatives and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference, if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Conference. The credentials shall be issued either by the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Credentials Committee

Rule 4

A Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session. It shall examine the credentials of representatives and report to the Conference without delay.

Provisional participation in the Conference

Rule 5

Pending a decision of the Conference upon their credentials, representatives shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the Conference.

II. OFFICERS

Elections

Rule 6

The Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, __ Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur-General, as well as a Chairman for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials shall be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

General powers of the President

Rule 7

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the President shall preside at the plenary meetings of the Conference, declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings and over the maintenance of order thereat. The President may propose to the Conference the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times each representative may speak on a question, the adjournment or closure of the debate and the suspension or the adjournment of a meeting.

2. The President, in the exercise of his function, remains under the authority of the Conference.

Acting President

Rule 8

1. If the President is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, he shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents to take his place.

2. A Vice-President acting as President shall have the same powers and duties as the President.

Replacement of the President

Rule 9

If the President is unable to perform his functions, a new President shall be elected.

Voting rights of the President

Rule 10

The President, or a Vice-President acting as President, shall not vote in the Conference, but may appoint another member of his delegation to vote in his place.

III. GENERAL COMMITTEE

Composition

Rule 11

The President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee shall constitute the General Committee. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents designated by him, shall serve as Chairman of the General Committee. The Chairman of the Credentials Committee and other committees established by the Conference in accordance with rule 48 may participate, without the right to vote, in the General Committee.

Substitute members

Rule 12

If the President or a Vice-President of the Conference is to be absent during a meeting of the General Committee, he may designate a member of his delegation to sit and vote in the Committee. In case of absence, the Chairman of the Main Committee shall designate the Vice-Chairman of that Committee as his substitute. When serving on the General Committee, a Vice-Chairman of the Main Committee shall not have the right to vote if he is of the same delegation as another member of the General Committee.

Functions

Rule 13

The General Committee shall assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference and, subject to the decisions of the Conference, shall ensure the coordination of its work.

IV. SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE

Duties of the Secretary-General

Rule 14

1. The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the Conference and its subsidiary organs.

2. The Secretary-General may designate a member of the secretariat to act in his place at these meetings.

3. The Secretary-General shall direct the staff required by the Conference.

Duties of the secretariat

Rule 15

The secretariat of the Conference shall, in accordance with these rules:

(a) Interpret speeches made at meetings;

(b) Receive, translate, reproduce and circulate the documents of the Conference;

(c) Publish and circulate the official documents of the Conference;

(d) Prepare and circulate records of public meetings;

(e) Make and arrange for the keeping of sound recordings and provide summary records of meetings;

(f) Arrange for the custody and preservation of the documents of the Conference in the archives of the United Nations;

(g) Generally perform all other work that the Conference may require.

Statements by the secretariat

Rule 16

The Secretary-General, or any member of the secretariat designated by the Secretary-General for that purpose, may, at any time, make other oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

V. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Temporary President

Rule 17

The Secretary-General shall open the first meeting of the Conference and preside until the Conference has elected its President.

Decisions concerning organization

Rule 18

The Conference shall at its first meeting:

(a) Adopt its rules of procedure;

(b) Elect its officers and constitute its subsidiary organs;

(c) Adopt its agenda, the draft of which shall, until such adoption, be the provisional agenda of the Conference;

(d) Decide on the organization of its work.

VI. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Quorum

Rule 19

The President may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the representatives of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

Speeches

Rule 20

1. No one may address the Conference without having previously obtained the permission of the President. Subject to rules 21, 22 and 25 to 27, the President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The secretariat shall be in charge of drawing up a list of speakers.

2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Conference and the President may call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

3. The Conference may limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each participant may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. In any event, with the consent of the Conference, the President shall limit each intervention on procedural matters to five minutes. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call him to order without delay.

Points of order

Rule 21

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order, which shall be immediately decided by the President in accordance with these rules. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the President. The appeal shall be immediately put to the vote, and the President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Precedence

Rule 22

The Chairman or Rapporteur of the Main Committee, or the representative of a subcommittee or working group, may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by the body concerned.

Closing of the list of speakers

Rule 23

During the course of a debate, the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Conference, declare the list closed.

Right of reply

Rule 24

1. Notwithstanding rule 23, the President shall accord the right of reply to a representative of any State participating in the Conference who requests it. Any other representative may be granted the opportunity to make a reply.

2. The statements made under this rule shall normally be made at the end of the last meeting of the day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the relevant item if that is sooner.

3. The representatives of a State may make no more than two statements under this rule at a given meeting on any item. The first shall be limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes; representatives shall in any event attempt to be as brief as possible.

Adjournment of debate

Rule 25

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of the debate on the question under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour and to two opposing the adjournment, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Closure of debate

Rule 26

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the question under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified

his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Suspension or adjournment of the meeting

Rule 27

Subject to rule 38, a representative may at any time move the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting. No discussion on such motions shall be permitted and they shall, subject to rule 28, be immediately put to the vote.

Order of motions

Rule 28

The motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:

(a) To suspend the meeting;

(b) To adjourn the meeting;

(c) To adjourn the debate on the question under discussion;

(d) To close the debate on the question under discussion.

Submission of proposals and substantive amendments

Rule 29

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General, who shall circulate copies to all delegations. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, substantive proposals shall be discussed or put to a decision no earlier than 24 hours after copies have been circulated in all languages of the Conference to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments, even though these amendments have not been circulated or have only been circulated the same day.

Withdrawal of proposals and motions

Rule 30

A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before a decision on it has been taken, provided that it has not been amended. A proposal or a motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Decisions on competence

Rule 31

Subject to rule 21, any motion calling for a decision on the competence of the Conference to adopt a proposal submitted to it shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Reconsideration of proposals

Rule 32

When a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered unless the Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, so decides. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing reconsideration, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote.

VII. DECISION-MAKING

General agreement

Rule 33

The Conference shall make its best endeavours to ensure that the work of the Conference is accomplished by general agreement.

Voting rights

Rule 34

Each State participating in the Conference shall have one vote.

Majority required

Rule 35

1. Subject to rule 33, decisions of the Conference and its subsidiary organs shall be taken in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and its committees, respectively.

2. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, decisions of the Conference on all matters of procedure shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

3. If the question arises whether a matter is one of procedure or of substance, the President of the Conference shall rule on the question. An appeal against this ruling shall be put to the vote immediately, and the

President's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the representatives present and voting.

4. If a vote is equally divided, the proposal or motion shall be regarded as rejected.

Meaning of the phrase "representatives present and voting"

Rule 36

For the purpose of these rules, the phrase "representatives present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting shall be regarded as not voting.

Method of voting

Rule 37

1. Except as provided in rule 44, the Conference shall normally vote by show of hands, except that a representative may request a roll-call, which shall then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the States participating in the Conference, beginning with the delegation whose name is drawn by lot by the President. The name of each State shall be called in all roll-calls, and its representative shall reply "yes", "no" or "abstention".

2. When the Conference votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of hands and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call. A representative may request a recorded vote, which shall, unless a representative requests otherwise, be taken without calling out the names of the States participating in the Conference.

3. The vote of each State participating in a roll-call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in any record of or report on the meeting.

Conduct during voting

Rule 38

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting, except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting.

Explanation of vote

Rule 39

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanations of vote, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed. The President may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The

representative of a State sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended.

Division of proposals

Rule 40

A representative may move that parts of a proposal be decided on separately. If a representative objects, the motion for division shall be voted upon. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives in favour of and to two opposing the division. If the motion is carried, those parts of the proposal that are subsequently approved shall be put to the Conference for decision as a whole. If all operative parts of the proposal have been rejected, the proposal shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

Amendments

Rule 41

A proposal is considered an amendment to another proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal. Unless specified otherwise, the word "proposal" in these rules shall be considered as including amendments.

Order of voting on amendments

Rule 42

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Conference shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon.

Order of voting on proposals

Rule 43

1. If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Conference decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted. The Conference may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

2. Revised proposals shall be voted on in the order in which the original proposals were submitted, unless the revision substantially departs from the

original proposal. In that case, the original proposal shall be considered as withdrawn and the revised proposal shall be treated as a new proposal.

3. A motion requiring that no decision be taken on a proposal shall be put to the vote before a decision is taken on the proposal in question.

Elections

Rule 44

All elections shall be held by secret ballot unless, in the absence of any objection, the Conference decides to proceed without taking a ballot when there is an agreed candidate or State.

Rule 45

1. When one or more elective places are to be filled at one time under the same conditions, those candidates, in a number not exceeding the number of such places, obtaining in the first ballot a majority of the votes cast and the largest number of votes, shall be elected.

2. If the number of candidates obtaining such majority is less than the number of places to be filled, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places.

VIII. SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Main Committee

Rule 46

The Conference may establish a Main Committee as required which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

Representation on the Main Committee

Rule 47

Each State participating in the Conference may be represented by one representative on the Main Committee established by the Conference. It may assign to the Committee such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Other committees and working groups

Rule 48

1. In addition to the Main Committee referred to above, the Conference may establish such committees and working groups as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

2. Subject to the decision of the Plenary or the Conference, the Main Committee may set up subcommittees and working groups.

Rule 49

1. The members of the committees and working groups of the Conference, referred to in rule 48, paragraph 1, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Conference, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

2. Members of the subcommittees and working groups of committees shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee in question, subject to the approval of that Committee, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

Officers

Rule 50

Except as otherwise provided in rule 6, each committee, subcommittee and working group shall elect its own officers.

Quorum

Rule 51

1. The Chairman of the Main Committee may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when representatives of at least one quarter of the States participating in the Conference are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the States so participating shall be required for any decision to be taken.

2. A majority of the representatives of the General or Credentials Committee or of any committee, subcommittee or working group shall constitute a quorum.

Officers, conduct of business and voting

Rule 52

The rules contained in chapters II, VI (except rule 19) and VII above shall be applicable, mutatis mutandis, to the proceedings of committees, subcommittees and working groups, except that:

(a) The Chairmen of the General and Credentials Committees and the chairmen of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may exercise the right to vote;

(b) Decisions of committees, subcommittees and working groups shall be taken by a majority of the representatives present and voting, except that the reconsideration of a proposal or an amendment shall require the majority established by rule 32.

IX. LANGUAGES AND RECORDS

Languages of the Conference

Rule 53

Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the languages of the Conference.

Interpretation

Rule 54

1. Speeches made in a language of the Conference shall be interpreted into the other such languages.

2. A representative may speak in a language other than a language of the Conference if the delegation concerned provides for interpretation into one such language.

Languages of official documents

Rule 55

Official documents of the Conference shall be made available in the languages of the Conference.

Sound recordings of meetings

Rule 56

Sound recordings of meetings of the Conference and of the Main Committee shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations. Unless otherwise decided by the Conference or the Main Committee concerned, no such recordings shall be made of the meetings of any working group thereof.

X. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

General principles

Rule 57

The plenary meetings of the Conference and the meetings of any committee shall be held in public unless the body concerned decides otherwise. All decisions taken by the plenary of the Conference at a private meeting shall be announced at an early public meeting of the plenary.

Rule 58

As a general rule, meetings of the General Committee, subcommittees or working groups shall be held in private.

Communiqués on private meetings

Rule 59

At the close of a private meeting, the presiding officer of the organ concerned may issue a communiqué through the Secretary-General of the Conference.

XI. OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS

Representatives of organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the capacity of observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices

Rule 60

Representatives designated by organizations that have received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices have the right to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group.

Representatives of national liberation movements

Rule 61

Representatives designated by national liberation movements invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any

other committee or working group on any matter of particular concern to those movements.

Representatives of the specialized agencies*

Rule 62

Representatives designated by the specialized agencies may participate, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of other intergovernmental organizations

Rule 63

Representatives designated by other intergovernmental organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of regional and subregional organizations

Rule 64

Representatives designated by regional and subregional organizations invited to the Conference may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Participation of associate members of regional commissions

Rule 65

Associate members of regional commissions invited to the Conference may participate as observers, outside the negotiating process and without the right to vote, in the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

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* For the purpose of these rules, the term "specialized agencies" includes the International Atomic Energy Agency and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Representatives of interested United Nations organs

Rule 66

Representatives designated by interested organs of the United Nations may participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference, the Main Committee and, as appropriate, any other committee or working group on questions within the scope of their activities.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Rule 67

1. Non-governmental organizations invited to the Conference may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Conference and the Main Committee.

2. Upon the invitation of the presiding officer of the conference body concerned and subject to the approval of that body, such observers may make oral statements on questions in which they have special competence.

Written statements

Rule 68

Written statements submitted by the designated representatives referred to in rules 60 to 66 shall be distributed by the secretariat to all delegations in the quantities and in the language in which the statements are made available to it at the site of the Conference, provided that a statement submitted on behalf of a non-governmental organization is related to the work of the Conference and is on a subject in which the organization has a special competence.

XII. SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Method of suspension

Rule 69

Any of these rules may be suspended by the Conference provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given, which may be waived if no representative objects. Any such suspension shall be limited to a specific and stated purpose and to a period required to achieve that purpose.

Method of amendment

Rule 70

These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Conference taken by a two-thirds majority of the representatives present and voting, after the General Committee has reported on the proposed amendment.

DECISION III

Participation of associate members of regional commissions in the Conference and its preparatory process

At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April 1993, the Preparatory Committee decided:

(a) To recommend to the General Assembly that it invite associate members of regional commissions which are responsible for their own foreign affairs to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the deliberations of the Conference and its preparatory process;

(b) To recommend that the General Assembly invite associate members of regional commissions which are not responsible for their own foreign affairs to participate as observers, without the right to vote, in the Conference and its preparatory process. Such participation would not entitle these observers to enter into any legally binding agreements or commitments between Governments which are specified or otherwise implied in General Assembly resolution 47/189.

DECISION IV

Participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference and its preparatory process

At its 3rd meeting, on 16 April 1993, the Preparatory Committee decided to invite non-governmental organizations, including major groups, to contribute actively to the Conference and its preparatory process in accordance with the procedures followed for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

DECISION V

Provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee

At its 3rd meeting, on 26 April 1993, the Preparatory Committee approved the following provisional agenda for its first session:

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Preparations for the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on the basis of General Assembly resolution 47/189 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions:

   (a) Activities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and other bodies of relevance to the preparatory process related to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States in the light of relevant recommendations of Agenda 21;

   (b) Preparations by the host Government;

   (c) Reports from regional technical meetings;

   (d) Participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process;

   (e) Operations of the voluntary fund.

3. Consideration of plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity, and improving the quality of life for island people, as well as measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively, creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources. The discussion of this item should cover the following:

   (a) Overview of the special problems of small island developing States:

   (i) Current trends in the socio-economic development of small island developing States;

   (ii) Nature and magnitude of specific vulnerabilities of small island developing States, including specific indicators of vulnerability;

   (iii) Prospects for, constraints on and further options for sustainable development;

   (b) Priority areas for the sustainable development of small island developing States:

   (i) Management of environmental problems of small island developing States;

   (ii) Management of the resources of small island developing States;

   (iii) Capacity-building in small island developing States;

(c) Implementation, monitoring and review of the recommendations emerging from agenda item 3 (a) and (b) above:

(i) National implementation, including recommendations for national capacity-building;

(ii) Regional implementation, including review of relevant regional institutional arrangements and, where appropriate, recommendations for improvement;

(iii) International implementation.

4. Provisional agenda for the Conference.

5. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.

Annotations

3 (b) (i) Suggested priority areas for the management of environmental problems of small island developing States include:

1. Climate change and sealevel rise, including coral bleaching and tropical storms;

2. Natural and environmental disaster preparedness, including early warning systems, disaster relief mechanisms and storm-resistant construction;

3. Management of waste.

3 (b) (ii) Suggested priority areas for the management of the resources of small island developing States include:

1. Coastal and marine resources;

2. Freshwater resources;

3. Land resources, including sustainable agriculture and forestry;

4. Energy resources;

5. Tourism resources;

6. Biodiversity resources.

3 (b) (iii) Suggested priority areas related to capacity-building in small island developing States include:

1. National institutions and administrative capacity;

2. Regional institutions and technical cooperation;

3. Regional transport and communication systems;

4. Science and technology;

5. Human resource development, including education, training, health and population.

3 (c) (iii) International implementation, monitoring and review of the recommendations emerging from agenda item 3 (a) and (b) above include:

1. Review of the responsiveness of international institutional arrangements to the sustainable development needs of small island developing States and, where appropriate, recommendations for improvement;

2. Recommendations for monitoring and follow-up within the United Nations system.

ANNEX II

Documents before the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session

Document number	Agenda item	Title or description
A/CONF.167/PC/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
A/CONF.167/PC/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
A/CONF.167/PC/3	3	Report of the Secretary-General containing the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference
A/CONF.167/PC/L.1	4	Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee
A/CONF.167/PC/L.1/Rev.1	4	Note by the Secretariat containing the revised draft provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee
A/CONF.167/PC/L.2	4	Draft provisional agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee submitted by the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China
A/CONF.167/PC/L.3	3	Draft decision submitted by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee on the guidelines for the work of the Preparatory Committee

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